

ACADEMIC INNOVATION PROJECT - REPORT 2021-22

Name: Nick Rowan
Fac/Dir: Arts, Design & Humanities – Arts, Design & Architecture
E-mail: nick.rowan@dmu.ac.uk
Tel: 8758

Digital Inductions to Labs and Workshops - Creating better utilisation of physical on campus spaces for skilled knowledge transfer

What did you set out to do?

This project set out to investigate if we could build on the photosphere workshop tours, introduced during the pandemic, to fully or partially digitise the induction and safety onboarding of students to the workshops in the Vijay Patel Building.

Specifically this project looked at digitising induction material that utilises non networked PC's. Within the workshops there are a number of pieces of equipment that cannot be networked because the unique software will not run on current operating systems.

The proposal was to digitise this induction material so that the inductions to these machines did not have to physically occur at the machines, as it does currently.

How have you achieved it?

Through this project we have found a way to digitise this information and present it to students, both within and external to the induction photospheres. This allows us to break the link between the induction and the geographic location of the machine.

Specifically, we did this through physical, in-line, screen capture and post processing in video editing software to add voice over instructions.

What next?

This has allowed us to digitise the most difficult machines within the workshops breaking the need for their induction to be physically located in the workshops.

Through this process we have identified the 'key' machines students are most likely to interact with within the majority of the ground floor workshops, the workshops mainly utilised by the academics students.

We have started work to make custom inductions for these machines, meaning that there can be a more 'general' induction alongside the photospheres and in-depth machine inductions. The ambition is to fully digitise this into the safety induction that students can access remotely before receiving bespoke training on specialist equipment within the workshop environment.

Benefits for the University

The onboarding of student safety inductions utilises most of the workshop access for term 1 (Block 1), by working towards an accessible remote system the University can better utilise this resource across Levels 5 & 6 Improving student experience.

Work based on the photosphere workshop tours has also been utilised by a number of colleagues to create unique learning experiences in faculties across DMU.

Benefits for Subject Community

In the subject area of Design all programmes in ADA (Art's, Design and Architecture) utilise these workshops so the induction material can be and is shared across the subject area.

Benefits for Students

The main benefits for students are:

- For students who have studied under the pandemic their experience of workshops will likely be reduced. This online resource allows them to refer back to safety and induction materials. Traditionally an induction would take place in Term 1 but a student may not access that workshop for another year. This system allows them to privately refresh themselves if they feel embarrassed to ask for assistance.
- This system also benefits student with vast experience, they will no longer have to wait for an induction to utilise the excellent facilities at DMU, if they can pass the induction test they can access the workshops.

Benefits for Staff

The main benefit for the technical team is that they will have an ability to check a students induction status, allowing them to know if a student is safe to work within their workshop.

The benefit for academic staff is that they have more freedom to plan practical activities in the workshops earlier in the academic year. The ambition being more repetition will lead to a higher standard of final output.



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